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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 10/646,735

Examiner: Christopher E. MAHONEY

Filed : August 25, 2003

Confirmation No.: 1189

For : A LENS BARREL INCORPORATING THE ADVANCING/RETRACTING
MECHANISM

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

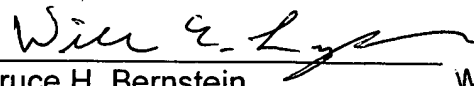
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on September 16, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA


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June 14, 2006
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